

G. 516.  
A true

# RELATION

Of the Terrible

# EARTHQUAKE

AT

WESTBROMMIDGE

IN

STAFFORDSHIRE,

And the places adjacent :

On Tuesday the 4th of this Instant January, 1676.

As it was lately Communicated by several  
Letters from those parts to divers eminent Citi-  
zens in London.

And likewise a true Account of the Terroure of  
the Earthquake at Kidderminster in Worcestershire, as it  
was Communicated in a Letter to an Eminent Artist  
in London from his Correspondent there.

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*Letatur Deus in Operibus suis, qui respicit  
Terram, & facit eam Tremere, qui tangit  
Montes, & Fumigant. Psal. 103.*

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With Permission, Roger L'Estrange.

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L O N D O N : Printed for D. M. in the Year 1676.

# RELATION OF THE EARTHQUAKE

AT  
WESTBROMWICH  
IN  
STAFFORDSHIRE

On Tuesday the 4th of this instant January, 1875,  
it was freely communicated by several  
persons from those parts to a few eminent  
gentlemen in London.

And also with a true account of the manner of  
the earthquake in the following manner  
was communicated in a letter to the  
in London from the Correspondent.

Letter from Dublin Jan. 10th 1875  
to the Editor of the Times  
London & Birmingham Presses

With permission, Wm. G. Gifford

London: Printed by Wm. Gifford, 1875.

# RELATION

Of the late great

# Earthquake, &c.

**W**E cannot certainly forget the very blustering tempestuous Weather which happened here at *London* on the third and fourth days of this Instant *January*; the winds blowing with that impetuous fierceness & violence, as if all *Adams* his two and thirty Sons had been in an uproar: and though the damages thereby susteyned at Sea in several parts were very great, yet we shall pass them by with a silent pity, and onely mention a very rare and wonderful Accident which happened at the same time at Land; which was thus.

At a place called *West-Brumridge* in *Staff.*

*fordshire*, within four miles of *Brammington*,  
 (that famous Town in *Lincolnshire*, situate on  
 the edge of *Woolfathire*) on the said  
 Tuesday, the first of January instant, in the  
 afternoon, the wind thereabouts for several  
 days before having been very calm, and more  
 still than is usual for the season; On a sudden  
 a strange rushing noise was heard in the Air,  
 and so continued for some time, to the great  
 admiration of many people that heard it;  
 which was the more increased, for that they  
 could not perceive any very sensible blast or  
 strong gust of wind, which might be the oc-  
 casion of such an uncouth Murmur; but this  
 their wonder was by and by forced up to the  
 highest pitch of amazement and terror, when  
 they began to perceive the Ground to quake  
 and tremble under their feet,  
 and which it did so evidently, that *Pewter-*  
*drums* fell from off the Shelves on which they  
 were placed, in several houses; nay as it is at-  
 testified by divers credible Eye-witnesses, it  
 made the windows in the streets and lanes  
 to beat and knock against one another. The  
 Inhabitants in fear, run out of their houses,  
 dreading they would be shaken down upon  
 their heads; but blessed be God no harm was  
 done, that we hear of. The Earthquake was  
 motionless in this single Town; but at all other  
 Villages since; for several miles; in *Stafford-*  
*shire*, and divers parts of *Warwickshire*.

This Account was sent up to a person of  
 good

(5)

Good Repare, by Trade an Ironmonger in  
Whitechappel, from one of his Correspondents,  
desiring to know if any such thing was obser-  
ved at London; they in the Country appreh-  
ending it might be general.

The continuance of the Earthquake was  
above half an hour, which was followed by  
mighty violent and tempestuous Winds for  
two or three days together.

The true Copy of a Letter sent to an  
Eminent Artist in London.

SIR,

Here was here this last night, viz. Jan.  
the 4th about six in the evening a noise  
as of motion, taken to be an Earthquake, which  
frighted us as if the Houses would have come  
on our heads; but was soon over, and was per-  
ceived in most parts of this Town, and as I  
hear, at divers other places. Several Credible  
persons affirm they saw or felt the Ground rise  
or move, and the Windows shake strangely; but  
I do not yet hear of any harm sustained.  
If this Intelligence may pleasure those pro-  
found Speculations into the mysteries of Na-  
ture, which I understand compose a great part  
of your happy Studies, I am, Sir, so far

Yours,

Kidderminter,

Jan. 5th 1675.

T. B.

For

For the assisting weaker Understandings the better to apprehend the cause and reason of these Tremblings of the Earth, they must know, that Naturalists define an Earthquake to proceed from Winde or dry Vapours shut up within the Earth, and heated there by the penetrating Influence of the Sun, which puts them forwards to finde or make their passage out of Caverns; and with the violence of their Irruption, the Earth, to a vast distance, is moved and shaken. They happen more usually in Spring or Autumn, than Summer or Winter, and especially after great Droughts succeeded by hasty Rains. For the Earth being before chapt and cleft, the Wind and Vapours in vast quantities insinuate and get into the same, which by a sudden glut of Wet being stoppt and shut up, they are forced to break their way forth in manner aforesaid. The Signs of an approaching Earthquake, are either *Astronomical*, or *Physi- cal*: Of the first sort are bad Aspects of the Planets *Jupiter* and *Mars* in any of the Earthly Signs, as *Taurus*, *Virgo*, or *Capricorn*: Of the Second, Extreme Cold, unusual Stillness of Air, Clouds drawn out to a great length, Water in Wells troubled and sinking, &c.

*Pliny* 2 Book Chap. 84. and *Gellius* Lib. 1. *Noctium*, relate, That the Antients were so struck with fear when an Earthquake happened, that they alwaies set aside a Thanksgiving-Day for their Preservation; but kept  
silent

silent the Name of the God to whom they dedicated such Festival, because they were not certain to which of their feigned Deities they were to attribute that stupendous power of shaking the Earth. And 'tis conceived by many of the Learned, that upon that most prodigious and universal Earthquake which happened at the Crucifixion of our blessed Lord and Saviour, the affrighted *Athenians* might (by reason of such their Custom) erect that Altar *Ignoræ Deo* (to the unknown God) observed afterwards by *St. Paul*, and mentioned *Acts 17*. Which terrible Pangs of Nature, when the God of Nature suffer'd, 'tis very probable *Pliny* means, when he saith; *L. 2, Cap. 84*. in these words: The greatest Earthquake that has been known in the world since the memory of Man, was in the Reign of *Tiberius* Cesar, whereby in one Night Twelve famous Cities of *Asia* were thrown down and destroyed.

We shall conclude with one Story out of Ecclesiastical History; It is from *Nicephorus*, *Lib. 13. Cap. 3*. who relates, That in the daies of *Justinus* Cesar, there was such an Earthquake at *Antioch*, that it demolish'd a great part of the City; And that about thirty Months after, there hapned another greater than that, under *Euphemius* then Bishop there: And that at that time it was revealed by Divine Oracle, or Inspiration, to a devout and religious man inhabiting there,  
That



That they should write the Name of God  
over their Doors in this manner,

*Christus nobiscum, fide.*

That is in English

Christ is with us, stand ye

And that this being done, the Earthquake  
ceased, without doing any damages.

The same Author tells of another  
Earthquake at Constantinople, when The-  
odosius Junior was Emperour, which  
continued Six Months together, and at  
last was driven away by the People sing-  
ing through the Streets this Anthem,  
taught them miraculously by Angels;

*Sanctus Deus, Sanctus Fortis, Sanctus*  
*Immortalis, miserere nobis.*

We shall conclude with one story out of  
Ecclesiastical History; I mean the  
Earthquake at Antioch, that destroyed  
great part of the City; And that about  
thirty Months after, there happened another  
greater than that, under Euphemia then Bi-  
shop there: And that at that time it was re-  
vealed by Divine Oracle, or inspiration to a  
devout and religious man inhabiting there,  
That



